

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2739
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2015
Simplification of Environmental Clearance Process
Singh Shri Abhishek

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has initiated steps to simplify/streamline the process of obtaining environmental and forest clearance including online submission and clearance;
- (b) if so, the details and status thereof; and
- (c) the efforts being made to streamline the said process in sync with 'Made in India'/ease of doing business concepts?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has taken several measures to simplify/streamline the process of environment and forest clearances for making it more transparent without compromising the rigour of the process of environment and forest clearances including online submission of applications for Terms of Reference (TORs), Environment Clearance (EC) and Forest Clearance, to enable the Project Proponent to track his application. The other streamlining measures with respect to environment clearance process inter alia include, amendments in EIA Notification, 2006 giving more powers to SEIAA, standardising the Terms of Reference for preparation of EIA Report, exempting the construction of industrial shed, school, college, hostels for education institution from requirement of EC, exemption to all highway projects in border States from scoping requirement and exempting all linear projects in border States from the requirement of public hearing subject to suitable conditions prescribed by the Ministry, non requirement of no objection for transfer of environment clearance of cancelled coal block to legal person to whom such block is subsequently allocated and also without referring to EAC / SEAC, amendment in CRZ Notification relaxing the criterion for construction of memorial/monuments within the CRZ area only in exceptional cases with adequate environmental safeguards, increasing the validity of Environment Clearance etc.

The other streamlining measures with respect to forest clearance process inter alia include, launching of a GIS based decision support system to facilitate informed decisions on forest clearance proposals, notification of rules for constitution of Regional Empowered Committees (RECs) at each Regional Office and delegation of powers to RECs to dispose proposals seeking diversion upto 40 ha. of forest land except those relating to mining, regularization of encroachment and hydel projects, allowed State Governments to issue permission for tree felling and commencement of work on linear projects once compensatory levies have been realised and land for compensatory afforestation, wherever required, as stipulated in Stage-I Forest Clearance has been transferred and mutated in favour of the State Forest Department, accorded general approvals for construction and widening of two lane roads and link roads within 100 kms. of Line of Actual Control and construction and widening of two lane roads within 117 Left Wing Extremism affected districts, irrespective of area of forest land involved, etc.

All the initiatives, as mentioned above, were initiated to meet the sustainable development goals.
